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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Production of Wire Mesh  
in the Russian Zone

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. The following plants were reported to produce nickel wire screens:

- a. Baderschneider & Lenzner Plant at 14 Brunnenstrasse in Zeulenroda (M 51/K 03). It is a private plant of the Land Thuringia and has the plant number 38/271/4009. (In the official list of Soviet Zone industries this firm is erroneously indicated as "Baderschneider & Lengner").
- b. Neustadt/Orla (Metal Weaving Plant) at 13 Triptiserstrasse in Neustadt/Orla (M 51/J 84). A zonal plant of the VVB (Z) Tewa with the plant number 38/269/1008.
- c. "F. Lose" Metal Screen Factory at 3 Gartenstrasse in Meiningen (M 51/H 82) A private plant of the Land Thuringia with the plant number 38/274/4016
- d. Plants for Metal Screens and Sieves at 29 Gebersdorferstrasse in Graefenthal (M 51/J 51) (prior to sequestration: Gebr Bayer Wire Screen Plant and M. Paschold, formerly Wittmann Plant) A nationalized enterprise of the Land Thuringia of the VVB (L) "Maschinen-Elektro-Ost" (machines, electric products, east) with the plant number 38/278/1100.
- e. Heerbrandt Punching and Wire Weaving Plant at 3 Am-Werder in Baguhn (M 52/E 15) A zonal plant of the VVB (Z) Tewa, plant number 38/326/0400
2. a. No information is yet available on the number of machines operated in the five mentioned plants. The following data can be supplied on the capacity of these plants:  
In a meeting held in the Neustadt/Orla "Metal Weaving Plant" on 10 January 1950 Mr. Sobolev as Deputy of General Rudenko by order of the

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SOG (Soviet Control Commission) demanded from the managers of the wire weaving plants that 60,000 to 70,000 square meters of wire screens be produced in 1950. The managers of the five wire weaving plants then declared unanimously that they could not deliver such an amount considering the severe terms requested by the Soviets (10,000 mesh per square centimeter, with warp spacing tolerance not exceeding 90 microns). They stated that only monthly output up to 700 square meters could be expected because the machinery of the small Reichenbach and Grafschaften Plants was inadequate to meet the intensified Soviet terms. The following expansion projects would have to be realized, if the amount requested by Bobolev were to be produced:

About 100 new looms would have to be set up; additional new buildings would have to be built; additional weavers would have to be employed; for example, an additional work force of 400 men would have to be employed only in the Neustadt/Orla Plant alone.

Thus, the two wire weaving plants in Zeulenroda and Neustadt/Orla may at present be expected to have an annual capacity of 8,500 square meters of wire screens (with 10,000 mesh per square centimeter and warp spacing tolerance not exceeding 90 microns). However, it was stated in one report that 16,300 square meters of wire screens were delivered to the Soviet Union on reparation account by the Neustadt/Orla Metal Weaving Plant during the second half-year of 1949 and 6,800 square meters by the Baderschneider & Lenzner Plant in Zeulenroda during the same period. Ten thousand mesh per square centimeter was allegedly prescribed for these deliveries, but there are no indications regarding the permitted tolerance for warp spacing. According to another report the Neustadt/Orla Metal Weaving Plant is to deliver about 25,000 square meters of improved wire screens (with 10,000 mesh per square centimeter and warp spacing tolerance not exceeding 90 microns) in 1950. This report can be considered as confirming the production indications for the second half-year of 1949 as a production increase must be expected for 1950 compared to 1949. Therefore the 1950 annual capacity must be expected to be

about 25,000 square meters for the Neustadt/Orla Metal Weaving Plant and

about 18,000 square meters for the Baderschneider & Lenzner Plant in Zeulenroda

Total: 40,000 square meters of wire screens.

b. The following supplementary indications must be made regarding the data on the wire screen mesh (para 2a):

So far the textures were manufactured according to the "twill" weaving system i.e. the wefts overlace or interlace two warps each as distinguished from the smooth texture where each weft overlaces or interlaces each single warp. This twill texture has the advantage of greater tensile strength because the weft thread is bent less frequently. The disadvantage of this texture is that the warp threads cannot be spaced always in regular intervals. Thus, there are frequently so-called "Gassen" (excessive spacing) which reduce the sieving qualities of the texture! Moscow repeatedly made objections on finished wire screens in the middle of December 1949. General

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Rudenko of the SCS (Soviet Control Commission) announced the following Moscow ratings in the Neustadt/Orla Metal Weaving Plant:

wire screens, 1st quality with maximum warp spacing tolerance of 90 microns

wire screens, 2d quality with maximum warp spacing tolerance of 120 microns

wire screens, 3rd quality with maximum warp spacing tolerance exceeding 120 microns

The Soviets did not accept third quality wire screens. The official especially authorized by Moscow for the acceptance of these wire screens is Pavilov.

The Soviets obviously considered the production of the following three different types of wire screens:

wire screens with 7,000 mesh per square centimeter

wire screens with 10,000 mesh per square centimeter

wire screens with 22,000 mesh per square centimeter

A thorough investigation revealed that the conversion to the production of wire screens with 22,000 mesh per square centimeter desired by the Soviets would take at least six months. Moscow therefore decided at the end of December 1949 that all firms produce an improved twill texture with 10,000 mesh per square centimeter which was not allowed to have a wider warp spacing tolerance than 90 microns. As the Soviet zone wire weaving plants have no adequate capacity to produce the requested 60,000 to 70,000 square meters of this improved wire texture the mentioned Soviet official Gobolev suggested to substitute part of the production of the improved texture of 10,000 mesh by the production of a wire texture of 7,000 mesh per square centimeter. The smaller number of meshes should be offset by a strong wire with a diameter ranging from 0.050 to 0.055 mm which would result in only slightly changing the size of meshes as compared to the texture with 10,000 meshes. The prescribed gauge of wire for the texture with 10,000 mesh per square centimeter is ranging from 0.038 to 0.042 mm in diameter. At present, only wire with a diameter of 0.037 mm is available for production.

The wire diameter is measured with the micrometer caliper. As it was not yet possible to measure the size of meshes the Firma Zeiss in Jena was ordered to manufacture a microscope-eye-piece-micrometer with  $\pm 0.01$  mm precision. The Zeiss firm will turn out this instrument early 1950. The microscopes used so far could only measure the number of meshes but not their size.

#### c. Raw material sources:

Swedish steel must be used for manufacturing suitable reeds. The firm Hachenberg Sandvik Ltd., Steel Hole Strasse 18/20 Gottschedstrasse in Leipzig C 1 is the agent of the Swedish steel suppliers for the Soviet zone of Germany. Also Swiss laminated strip steel was imported for manufacturing reeds. However it proved to be of inferior quality. So far the following nickel wire suppliers have been known:

Rolling mill for non-ferrous metals in Hettstedt (W 52/D 65)  
(formerly Copper and Brass Works)

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The plant was expropriated into Soviet property in 1946 and has been assigned to the Red Soviet Corporation.

C.P. Vogel Wire and Cable Works, Corporation, with a plant at 28 Lichtenstrasse in Berlin-Tiergarten (Z 53/4 75) and a subsidiary plant at 11 Friedrichshainerstrasse in Berlin-Lichtenberg. This Corporation became also Soviet property in 1945 and is assigned to the Red Soviet Corporation.

- d. For 'rate of production' see para 2a.
- e. The products are delivered exclusively to the Soviet Union.
- f. The following shipments of wire textures were reported:

(1) Shipment order No 102 911, on call number 483 of the Vertrae Bruech Dresden (Z 52/F 29) of 3 January 1949 to the Firma Luder-Schneid & Jenzen in Leulenroda for one box of wire textures weighing 33.7 kg and worth 4,494.20 DM. The box was shipped in a passenger car from Leulenroda to Berlin where it left for Moscow by air. Some weeks earlier such a box with a gross weight of about 17 kg had also been flown to Moscow. Serial number of this shipment: P 52/808023, 'Trans' number 108174, consignee: Promsyrio export Moscow. The shipment order was signed by Smirnov, deputy chief of the administration for reparations and deliveries, GDRP Thuringia.

(2) Shipment order No P 52/917/538 for reparation deliveries given to the Firma TUM formerly Oskar Wilhauer in Neustadt/Orla, Thuringia, dated 6 May 1949, regarding the delivery of nickel wire texture to the Promsyrioimport in Moscow. The amount of this delivery is not known. The order is signed by Pavlovski and Rudenko, Administration for Reparations and Deliveries of the GMA in Germany.

(3) Reparation order: P 52/917 541. Trans number 238 068. The delivery consists of 18 rolls, 100 centimeters wide and 863.51 meters long (i.e. 863.51 square meters). It was delivered by the Firma Heerbrandt punching and wire drawing plant in Jaguhn on 29 December 1949.

(4) Reparation order: P 52/917 540, Trans number 238 068. The shipment consisted of two rolls, 100 centimeters wide and 118.75 meters long (i.e. 118.75 square meters). It was delivered by the Firma "Plants for Steel Textures and Sieve Laces" in Graefenthal on 29 December 1949.

(5) Regarding the total shipments of the Soviet zone wire having plants during the second half-year of 1949 and regarding wire screens deliveries requested by the Soviets for 1950 see para 2b.

3. The Firma Emil Jaeger in Neustadt/Orla was expropriated and is now a zonal plant of VVB (Z 51). However, this plant is not mentioned in the official list of Soviet zone industries' 1949 production program.

Production of mechanical wire and metal weaving looms, metal stretching machines as well as all auxiliary machines for manufacturing wire textures.

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Built-up plant area: 4,000 square meters

Installations: Engineering works and iron foundry.

The plant was dismantled in 1947, production of wire loops and reeds started in this plant in 1948. The 1949 reparation deliveries allegedly had a value of 1 million eastern Dm. Detailed information on the production of this plant is not yet available.

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